



ARENA REPORT



P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795-2547

\$1.00

Volume IV, Number 14

April 20, 1992

Welcome one and all to another round of "AR". I was to have a live report from the ICWA in Tampa 4/16 but I've been under the weather this past week with a touch of the flu. What a bummer too as I was to drive Bill Otten and famed Jap photog Jimmy Suzuki to the tshow where I planned on asking Jimmy all about that nasty blade job he did in the old Uwf for Gilbert and Taylor. Besides AR's regular clomnists Klon, Marianne, and Scott in this issue, we also have a special "Strictly Business" column from Jeff Siegel. Next issue K.C. O'Connor takes alook at the lightheavyweight division in his guest column.

Arena Report is published bi-weekly at the cost of \$1.00 per issue. A number on your label indicates how many issues you have remaining on your sub. All letters, match results, and renewals may be sent to Arena Report, P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795. There are an abundance of letters this time out and I want to thank all of for taking the time and writing. I've said it before and I'll say it again, if it weren't for you, there wouldn't be an "AR".

#RAMBLINGS#

As most of you know by now Sting was injured on April 12th at the Omni by Big Van Vader. Vader caught Sting coming off the top rope and slammed him to the mat busting a couple of ribs and hurting his spleen. He'll be out until the week before WrestleWar and maybe not even until that show. Once again bad luck strikes WCW on the injury front. What I don't understand is that WCW was going to shoot an injury angle at its TV tapings this past week to explain the injury. Why???? Just say he was injured at the Omni. Make it realistic. Another reason you should go to the house shows, to see injuries happen. Plus, why take the chance on hurting Sting even more in making him do an angle? Nikita Koloff will be taking Sting's place on upcoming shows which include single bouts vs. Rude and tags with Steamboat vs. 2 members of the Dangerous Alliance.....Time to clean out the notebook: Now that Joe Pedicino is no longer involved with the GWF (I bet that move surprised a lot of people who thought he was the GWF.) I'd like to see him bring back Pro Wrestlin This Week and put it in syndication. There are so many indy groups with TV that would love to be a part of that like Smokey Mountain, the NWF in Louisiana Suncoast Pro, IWF etc. And it would be an interesting show. Who needs the big 2?.....There have been tons of rumors concerning Eddie Gilbert this week. Among them: a) he had a meeting with Vince McMahon last week to discuss taking the booker position. b) He has a meeting this week over the same matter. c) He starts at the next set of TV tapings as a wrestler/manager. d) He has been telling people that he will meet with Vince over the booker job as a means of leverage to get into WCW. Knowing Eddie's past history, I would go with the latter. Don't tell Madusa where I live okay?.....Looks like there is a good chance that Jake Roberts will end up in WCW after all as I was told they may have him signed as early as May 1st. Should they make him part of the Dangerous Alliance? He could fill the spot opened up by Larry Zbyszko who will be turning babyface and eventually will be out of the ring and in a baby color spot. I can't see Zbyszko as a babyface color commentator. He's got

a good heel schtick.....The future of Brian Pillman is in question. His back injury may keep him out a lot longer than anticipated. There has even been some question as to whether he'll be able to wrestle again. He would definitely be a key loss for WCW.....Vince McMahon said to want to rehire Marty Jannetty but he's afraid of the press bringing up Marty's run in with the law and why he'd bring him back. Well, what about Kerry Von Erich? He's back and his history is about 10 times worse than Marty's.....Ric Flair did jobs for the British Bulldog in all three shows in England last week. European tour has been going great guns with huge crowds and great merchandise sales everywhere. Did I just sound like CBS?.....Well at least we'll have a credible Canadian entry in the NWA tag tourney with Chris Benoit and Biff Wellington. Really looking forward to this summer with WCW.....Speaking of which, I sure wish the line up for the June PPV in Mobile, AL would swap with Jacksonville As Sting-Cactus meeting in a falls count anywhere on the Gulf Coast sounds pretty intense along with the Steiners-Gordy-Williams match which would be worth my price for admission alone. I wonder if it would be worth going to Tampa to see if Sting and Cactus cross the peninsula and finish the bout in Florida. Would you put it past Jack?.....Williams and Gordy will be in that NWA tag tourney and I'll stick with my prediction of them winning it..... Lots of rumors last week that Pat Patterson committed suicide which are totally untrue.....4/18 in Manatee for Suncoast Pro Wrestling saw Debbie Malenko beat Penelope Paradise in a 2 out of three fall bout. Other main matches saw Dean Malenko beat Giant Outlaw, Ian Weston pin Masked Superstar (Bob Cook), and the Malenkos (Debbie & Dean) over Superstar & Paradise in a mixed tag when Rico Frederico ran in on the heels behalf and they were DQ'd. Crowd was best they've had with 400.....Roddy Piper may find himself in legal trouble with comments he's been making concerning the people who have come forward like Rita Marie and Murray Hodgson.....A Current Affair will be taping a show this Tuesday with the usual cast of characters like the previous mentioned two and Bruno Sammartino.....Do you think the casual fan has any idea why Dusty Rhodes gets to do interviews for WCW? They must wonder what makes him an expert. The guy doesn't wrestle for them. And of course they don't know he's the boss.....Kip Frey was said to have told an associate of mine that the Nikita-Zbyszko bout was one of the best if not the best bout he's seen since he's come into WCW. There blows his match rating credibility with me.....ESPN's Great Outdoors this Saturday featured Paul Orndorff hog hunting with ex-Atlanta Falcon quarterback Steve Bartkowski. A couple of wrestling references thrown in but nothing worthwhile.....The 20/20 piece that aired Friday night was interesting. The wrestling pieces were mainly of Ed Gantner & Billy Graham. Nothing newsbreaking about either. The scariest part of the show was a 17 year old kid who said he knew how damaging steroids were but he was going to do them anyways.....An indy in Billerica, MA on 5/3 will see Jim Neidhart meet Jimmy Snuka in a 2 of 3 fall bout. Can you imagine? I rather have to sit in someone's dentist chair. Other main bout will see Nikolai Volkoff vs. Mike Sharpe in a flag match. Russia vs. Canada in Massachusetts. Is some mark booking this card? Hercules will also see action.....It was like being in the twilight zone while reading last weeks issue of Pro Wrestling Spotlight. One week it was like reading an anti-WWF sheet and the next was like Titan published the thing. It's a good thing I already have my convictions on the subject because if you didn't have a clue about any of the scandals, Vince Russo would have you believing them. What's scary is that the newsletter is available to the general public in local newstores in Long Island. Someone pull those off the shelves.....Doesn't it seem like Greg Valentine has caught that last ember making him catch fire for his final major run in a major promotion? Lets' give the Hammer some credit for giving an "A" for effort making his non-squash bouts watchable.....Is it me or did some newsletter editors take that "smoke filled buildings" quote out of context? To me, all it meant was wrestling was taken out of the small high school gyms and armories and put into the large arenas. It didn't have anything to do with smoking at all.....How's this for booking. Great Muta will be in WCW for a week in May and they have him booked in some spots with Mr. Hughes. Hopefully Hughes will be in his rehab that night.....Arena Reporter Jeff Wilson tells us about a promising manager down Carolina way by the name of Daryl Van Horne who got off this line at a recent SAPE card in Fayetteville, NC, "This crowd is a cross section of Red, White, and Blue. RedNecks, White Trash, and Blue Collar Scum".... The first positive piece done on wrestling in awhile was done at a local Orlando news cast as they covered the IWF bringing in underprivileged kids to a recent card in Orlando. They had Mulligan on telling the kids don't do drugs.....New England Wrestling Federation runs a card in Barre, VT on 5/17 with Barbarian vs. Demolition Axe (Bill Eadie) on top plus Hercules vs. Marty Jannetty, Dino Bravo and others.....For my old stomping ground friends up in Mass., R.I., and Connecticut: I'll be "home" from July 2-July 12 so make a note of any wrestling shows at all and let's plan on going. Let me know..... For those that are attending the WCW Jacksonville PPV: We will not be running an indy card the night before as we couldn't book a building. The IWF may be running a show that Friday or Saturday but it's not confirmed at press time. The hotel we'll be staying at is the Airport Holiday Inn with rates of \$48.00 per night. The phone number for reservations is (904)741-4404. We'll have

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STRICTLY BUSINESS



... Jeff Siegel

Some related and semi-related business-oriented thoughts regarding the goings-on in pro wrestling over the past couple of months:

- The reaction of the "common folk" on shows like Donahue to the wrestling scandals provides a true, not-so-shocking indication of just how pro wrestling is perceived by the general public. The tendency, at least over the last five to seven years, has been to somehow rationalize that wrestling's stature has been elevated along with its visibility. However, the ease with which alleged horrors like child abuse and sexual harassment have been downplayed by the general public in favor of the "It's all fixed anyway, isn't it?" mentality is more than enough to refute any argument that Joe & Mary Lunchbucket's perception of pro wrestling has changed at all, let alone improved.

In fact, it's about time to suggest that wrestling's increased visibility during the "Hulk Hogan era" has been, at best, a blip on the charts. More radically, it may have been seriously exaggerated. While there's certainly no denying Hogan's mainstream appeal since 1985, wrestling as a whole -- in riding Hogan's coattails -- may not have experienced anywhere near the same degree of mainstream penetration.

It begs the question "Just how mainstream is professional wrestling?" Well, consider this fact: During the last week of the 1991 National Football League season, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, sporting a record of 2-13, played the hapless Indianapolis Colts, who had racked up all of one win in 15 previous tries. In pre-game "hype", it was dubbed everything from "The Toilet Bowl" to the most pathetic match-up of two teams in pro football's long, illustrious history. In spite of this, just under 30,000 fans attended for the game! In the meantime, the WWF breaks "a mere" 10,000 fans at an arena show with extreme irregularity these days, while WCW strives to break that figure on a monthly basis.

Mainstream? I'm not sure. And if it is (or was), the intensity of its true mainstream appeal was (and is) definitely questionable. For one thing, the bottom line (as in WCW's multi-million dollar losses and Titan's purported cash squeeze) is proof of that.

Maybe we've been fooled by the cookies, the vitamins, and the WrestleManias. Or maybe, as hardcores, we just perceived a greater degree of mainstream acceptance when you compare it to the cult-like nature of wrestling fandom in the 60's, 70's and early 80's. Whatever the explanation, pro wrestling may have never truly been more than a way to raise a few eyebrows or elicit a condescending chuckle at a cocktail party. The good 'ol mainstream reaction to all the recent fireworks is the last bit of corroboration we really need.

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- If there's a bright side to all the negative news that's transpired, it has to be the way in which "the wrestling press" has performed. And have you noticed that they are referred to less and less as "the sheets" these days?

With good reason. When we look back five or ten years from now, I think that history will record these times as when the pro wrestling press truly came of age. I'd even take it a step further: during the past few months, the key wrestling newsletters have taken a giant step closer toward becoming legitimate trade journals.

Almost every industry has 'em. Trade journals fill an important role in industries of all shapes and sizes. They're a vehicle for exchanging news within the industry...they're a forum for all members of the industry in which to voice their ideas and viewpoints...and when appropriate, they serve as the link to the outside press and the public-at-large. Sounds familiar, huh?

It should. Because that's what publications like the *Observer*, the *Torch*, and *AR* have involved into. The steroid scandal and the ensuing trials and tribulations of the WWF mandated the kind of probing coverage and insightful analysis expected of a true trade journal. And these wrestling publications responded -- with flying colors.

It doesn't stop there either. On a somewhat less dramatic note, the *Observer* recently ran what I believe to be its first couple of "employment ads" -- that is, "Letters Page" announcements from pro wrestlers seeking work. Trade journals are known for those, too.

And while I've only heard rumors to this effect, I wouldn't be surprised if the number of folks "in the business" who now subscribe to one or more newsletters is higher than ever before. Trade journals, you see, tend to command an extremely high percentage of subscribership from within the ranks of their own industry.

Fittingly, key figures in the wrestling business -- from Kip Frey to Dusty Rhodes to (oh my God!) Vince McMahon -- have begun to acquiesce and make themselves available for "on-the-record" interviews. My guess is that things will continue to evolve in this direction -- that is, the pro wrestling press will gain even greater acceptance within the business itself. Sometime very soon, in fact, it may even be permissible to be discovered in the locker room reading the latest edition of what used to be your "sheet" of choice.

SCOTT HUDSON'S.....

GEORGIA WRESTLING JOURNAL

UNBELIEVABLE: Following the publication of the most recent issue of "Arena Report", I received a telephone call from our editor advising me that he had been contacted by a man named Bob Cannella, owner of the American Championship Wrestling promotion; the same promotion whose recent show at Duluth High School was given something less than a rave review in that issue. Being that integrity is the ONLY thing I have going for me in this business (it damn sure ain't looks or talent!), I called Bob Cannella to address his concerns about the report of his show. Before getting to the meat of the story, let me first correct a mistake. Bambl did not win the Battle Royal. It was won by Al Navarro. This was due to Steve Prazak (who provided me with the results) being given incorrect information by a source. Now to the meat. Cannella had real problems with the way Steve scored the matches. Steve Prazak is not only my best friend, he is also damn smart when it comes to the wrestling business and the scoring of wrestling matches. So, Cannella's dispute is based on opinions, not facts. Thus, I will stick with the view of my unbiased friend. With that said, let me say that it is breath of fresh air to see a promoter like Bob Cannella take so much pride in his product that he called a newsletter columnist to complain. He was very polite and totally professional throughout the conversation and never struck me anything but a gentlemanly businessman who had a disagreement with the way his product was received. Whether he agrees or disagrees with the scoring of the match quality of his shows, I am very impressed that he cared enough to call. For the record, Cannella wanted me to note that he promotes in North & South Carolina as well as eastern Georgia. He plans another foray into metro Atlanta very soon. Watch this space for the results.

CENTER STAGE: (Atlanta, Georgia) 04-14-92. "WCW SATURDAY NIGHT" TAPINGS FOR AIR ON 04-25-92 AND 05-02-92. (04-25): Steve Austin and Barry Windham TLD..(05-02): Arn Anderson over Big Josh..**NEWS AND NOTES:** Atlanta Falcon All-Pro guard Bill Fraitc was the co-host of the 04-25 show while, ahem, Jason Hervey co-hosted the 05-02 show..The Austin/Windham 2 out of 3 falls match saw Windham win the first fall with a powerslam while the TV time expired during the second fall. This was a **1 match with a DUD finish..The Anderson/Josh 2 out of 3 falls match saw Anderson win the first and third falls of an interminable 35:00 * affair. Anderson accidentally potatoed Josh with a punch to Josh's left eye getting juice the hardway. I'll give Josh a ton of credit for fighting through it..During a question and answer period at intermission, an obvious flzzark asked Tony Schiavone (over the house mic, mind you) when WCW and the WWF would merge to form one group. Schiavone's answer? "The WWF? 'Never heard of 'em." HA HA..Jim Ross details Sting's injury during the open of the 04-25 show. Sting's broken ribs will reportedly keep him sidelined until at least the May 17 PPV in Jacksonville. The report of the injury made the sports gossip page of the Atlanta Constitution, although it reported that the injury was suffered at the hands of "Big Man Vader"..WCW returns to the Omni on 05-10-92 with announced main event being Big Van Vader & Rick Rude vs. Sting & The Great Mutha. Nikita Koloff will no doubt take Sting's place in that contest.

GLOBAL FALLOUT: For 9 wonderful months I had the pleasure of working with many of the big names in the business with the GWF. Now, due to budget constraints, all Atlanta personnel have been dropped. I have nothing but positive things to say about the GWF and I hope that one day "Point/Counterpoint" can return. As it is now, the segment doesn't exist in any form - anywhere. But, there is always hope. Meanwhile, Mr. Prazak and I will continue with the North Georgia Wrestling Association. And Joe P.-Thanks.

THE LAST WORD...

IN MEMORY
"Kitty Kitty Kitty"

MAY 26, 1990 - APRIL 12, 1992

She needed us - and we needed her.

'bye, Kitty.

Reader Profile

NAME: RICH KRAEMER

OCCUPATION: Parole Officer

BORN: 7/27/53 Weehawken, NJ

WHAT 3 WORDS DESCRIBE YOU BEST: loveable, funny, truthful

DREAM VACATION: Japan with a Tahiti stopover

THINGS YOU CAN DO WITHOUT: obnoxious people, taxes

WHOM IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH: Jimmy Buffett & Ric Flair

MOVIE YOU COULD SEE ANYTIME: Mad, Mad, Mad World, Rocky, Once Around

3 THINGS THAT CAN ALWAYS BE FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR: beerm salsa, worchester sauce

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE: George Wendt (though a thinner version)

WHAT TV SHOW DO YOU NEVER MISS: World Championship Wrestling, LA Law

FAVORITE WRESTLING MOMENT: Ric Flair landing in Charlotte via helicopter at first American Bash. 2) Snuka missing Backlund in dive off top of cage at MSG. 3) Hogan-Piper at MSG with MTV involvemnet

NOTES FROM THE PARKING LOT

by,
Marianne Ryan

I started going to baseball games in 1975. I had fallen in love with the game, not to mention the Cubs' catcher. It didn't take long for me to start going every weekend there was a home game, and once I got to high school, I would head out to the park after school when there was a game. I got to know the security guards, the reporters and, eventually, many of the ball players themselves.

I got autographs and pictures, I got free tickets to every game. I got a baseball cap from one player, and when one guy got traded to Kansas City, I got a Royals jacket from him the next time he was in Chicago. I also got to know many of these guys better than most.

When Steve and Cyndi Garvey were considered the ideal married couple, I knew the girl Steve was seeing here. I also knew the girl who would venture up to the visiting team's clubhouse an hour or so before batting practice to see if any of them were in need of her services. I saw the players who would start celebrating a bit early by grabbing a beer on one of their trips to the clubhouse. I saw the guys who would arrive at the park under the influence of any number of illegal substances.

Yet when the Garvey's broke up it seemed shocking. When baseball's cocaine trials began, it seemed appalling. Things like that didn't happen to the sport known as America's favorite pastime. It didn't happen to the men young boys worshipped. It didn't happen to something so wholesome.

When the scandals started coming to light in the WWF, people didn't seem surprised. In fact, most people seem to think it was only a matter of time. After all, wrestling isn't even a legitimate sport. The very essence of it is less than noble. In fact, to many, it is downright sleazy. So why should anyone be surprised at the allegations being made.

They shouldn't. They shouldn't have been surprised at what happened within major league baseball, or any other sport. These are young men, who find themselves making large sums of money for playing games. Fame takes its toll in many ways. After all, these men are human. When women throw themselves at athletes, the men forget what it's like to be around other women. When people offer them free drugs simply because they're famous, it becomes hard to remember they shouldn't be doing it.

I'm not excusing these guys and what they did. Sexual harassment is wrong. Sexually abusing children is abhorrent. Abusing drugs and steroids is stupid. But we shouldn't condemn the sport for the actions of a few participants. Instead, why don't we try and remember what it is we liked about the sport in the first place.

READER PROFILES

NAME: MARIANNE RYAN

OCCUPATION: Writer

BORN: January 10, 1963 Chicago, IL

WHAT 3 WORDS DESCRIBE YOU BEST: methodical, organized, stubborn

DREAM VACATION: A trip to Ireland complete with accomadations in some of the historic castles there.

THINGS YOU CAN DO WITHOUT: traffic jams, new Coke, opera, prime time TV from 7-8 p.m., rude people, ring rats.

WHOM IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH: Steve McMichael of the Chicago Bears

MOVIE YOU COULD SEE ANYTIME: Bonnie & Clyde

3 THINGS THAT CAN ALWAYS BE FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR: coke, coke, and coke

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE: Kathleen Turner

WHAT TV SHOW DO YOU NEVER MISS: LA Law- reruns every night and regular Thurs,

FAVORITE WRESTLING MOMENT: Seeing the Hart Foundation win the tag titles at SummerSlam.

The specter of death has claimed one of my personal favorites, Sam Kinison and a malaise engulfs my spirit. Having brought that to your attention let us proceed with this column. But never take people for granted, they may soon be gone.

PRIMA DONNA STING - Word has come down that WCW will be dropping the Sting vs Van Vaden feud because Vaden works too solid. Why that poor itty bitty Stinger! What is it with that peroxide prima donna anyway? He is the same ego tripper who refused to put Terry Funk over (when it would have been for the company good) and who knows what other power plays Mr Steve Boring may have pulled. Van Vaden may work a little rough (this is expected from top Japanese performer), he is only trying to make it look authentic. I would much rather watch someone work too hard than twerp like Sting who never has his working shoes on. Thumbs down to Sting and to WCW management who put up with his antics.

BUCK THE TREND TIME - Allow me to preface this by saying that I love Ric Flair and was very much looking forward to his match with Randy Savage. Having said that I must tell you that I personally enjoyed Roddy Piper/Bret Hart even more than the Flair/Savage match. From the time Piper came out I was unsure if a turn was coming and this was very exciting for me. Just my opinion folks.

LOOK OVER YOUR SHOULDER - Those of you jumping up and down with glee over the WWF sex and drug scandals should not forget that WCW has a few skeletons of their own. All of you will agree that the career of on Tommy Rich is on it's last legs. What would it take for him to reveal how to get to be NWA world champion for a few days. Could he even file a lawsuit? Oh and don't forget that Rich's sugar daddy Jim Barnett is still very involved with Turner wrestling as part of the middle management. Compare a possible Rich story to Barry Ontons, sort of blows (oop's bad phraseology) Barry O's to nothing. There could be others with stories of this nature. I know that Ted "Mr Ecology, Mr No Nukes, Mr Jane Fonda ETC" did not own the company when this event took place. But Barry Onton's car trip in Texas took place long before the WWF went from being a northeast regional wrestling group to the dominant force in wrestling in this country and it has been parlayed into Vince McMahon's problem. Catch my drift? To paraphrase the Bible "ye who are without sin, shall cast the first stone".

PLUG-O-RAMA - One of the most dedicated fans in wrestling is Steve Sims. I could write an entire page on how he gives of himself to help other fans. Well Steve is probaly one the world's greatest aficionado's of Lucha Libre (Mexican Wrestling). Well Steve has started a weekly newsletter covering the world of Lucha Libre.

It is my understanding that when Dave Meltzen has a question about this type of wrestling, he goes to Steve Sims. So if you have an interest in Lucha Libre or perhaps just want to find an alternative to WWF or WCW antics contact Steve. His newsletter is a dollar an issue and the address is Steve Sims, 1427 West Dickens Ave, Chicago, Ill, 60614.

PARTING THOUGHTS - The WM interview by Ellering and his pups went on forever. By the way Ellering's words were lifted almost word for word from an old Kris Kristofenson song called "The Taken". Rumor of the week, that the WWF is bringing in Del (The Patriot) Wilkes to be the evil Ultimate Warrior with Kevin Sullivan as his mgr.

 CORRESPONDENT'S CORNER

Meadowlands Arena (WCW) E. Rutherford, NJ March 31, 1992
 Correspondent: Andy King

1) Richard Morton pinned Mike Graham using the ropes at 7:15. 2) Ron Simmons & Big Josh downed Vinnie Vegas & Mr. Hughes in 8:24 when Ron pinned Hughes. 3) Terry Taylor over Dallas Page in 9:11. 4) Cactus Jack beat Johnny B. Badd via count out in 10:27. 5) Barry Windham & Junkyard Dog over Steve Austin & Larry Zbyszko in a bunkhouse match at 8:02. Wild brawl from start to finish. 6) Big Van Vader squashed Marcus Bagwell in 3:46. 7) Steiners over Bobby Eaton & Arn Anderson when Paul E. used the phone for a DQ in 12:58. 8) Sting retained his world title beating Rick Rude in 18:58. Crowd pelted Rude with all kinds of stuff during pre-match schtick. ATT: 3,000

Blue Ridge High School (UWO) Greer, SC April 6, 1992
 Correspondent: Danny Parris

1) Bad Boyz TW and JW Hart beat Desperadoes in 15:44. None of the four could work. -*** 2) Bill White and Vladimir Koloff went to a time limit draw in 15:00. White is the same guy who jobbed for Mid-Atlantic back in the 70's. -** 3) Hells Angel Cruiser beat Lance Gaylord in 14:01. 1/2* 4) Bambi used a figure four leglock to dispose of Lady X (Peggy Lee Leather) in 16:19. Stiff chops by both. * 5) Wahoo McDaniel over Ivan Koloff via DQ in 12:19 when Vladimir did a run in. ATT: 195

Tampa Sportatorium (ICWA) Tampa, FL April 9, 1992
 Correspondent: Paul Spiegel

1) Mondo Kleen pinned Rick Thames. 2) Jimmy Backlund over Steve Collins. 3) Dean Malenko pinned Mark Starr to retain the lighthweight title. 4) Lou Perez & Allen Iron Eagle retained their US tag belts by beating The Terminator & Sonny T 5) Dick Slater went to a double DQ with Robert Fuller. ATT: 185

Stoney Creek Demo Club (MEWF) Pasadena, MD April 10, 1992
 Correspondent: Bruce Ginevan

1) Rick Savage rolled up Joe Thunder. D 2) Adrian Hall powerbombed Johnny Blaze. D 3) Zake Blade (formerly Johnny Lawler) pinned The Wolfman after a dropkick in the corner. C 4) Lucifer Knight of the Road beat Warhawk. C 5) Bob Star & Rude Dog Kerry Davis beat A.C. Golden (Golden Phoenix) & Max Thrasher when Golden was caught with a chair for a DQ. C 6) Agent Orange DDT'd Ramblin Rich Carlisle. C+ 7) Nick Tarentino pinned Hard Rock Ricky Blues. B 8) The Spider and Morgus the Maniac went to a no contest when Bob Star & Nick Tarentino did run ins. C 9) Cream Team (should drop that name now don't you think) beat Billion Dollar Babies when Rip Sawyer pinned G.Q. Stratus. D 10) Adrian Hall won a 10 man four corner tag match. D ATT: 192

Tampa Sportatorium (ICWA) Tampa, FL April 16, 1992
 Correspondent: Paul Spiegel

1) Hurricane Walker over Oscar Ledoux. 2) Tex Sallenger pinned Jim Steele. 3) Pat Tanaka (sub for Mondo Kleen) beat Coconut Man. 4) Lou Perez & Allen Iron Eagle over Steve Collins & Mark Starr. 5) Kevin Sullivan beat Jimmy Backlund in a taped first match when Oliver Humperdinck put ether on a towel and put Backlund out.

East Park Recreation Center (NWF) Houma, LA April 12, 1992
 Correspondent: Ken Verret

1) Steve Ray pinned Ken Massey in 12:53. 2) Ron Powers DDT'd Joey Maggs in 7:17. 3) Robert Gibson & Steve Pritchard over Bob Orton & Dale Wolfe in 19:26. 4) Chris Adams defeated Manny Fernandez in 20:41. 5) Eli the Eliminator beat Bruce Reed in 12:20 when manager Michael Allshore interfered in a wild brawl. ATT: 172

 LETTERS TO "AR"

Harry Speaks

CANCEL MY SUBSCRIPTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Please inform your fellow homewreckers Meltzer, Mullins, Levine, Keller, Marvez, Arezzi, etc. to delete my name from their computers also. Being close to the situation Mike Gunter is facing, I figure the only way I can get myself out of Mikes' kind of trouble is to stop being obsessed with pro wrestling or "charge number 5" as we now

know it. I figure that in a jury hearing my case, someone would have been to a strip club so they could understand that. I figure that some may also have committed adultery so they could understand. Even Jimmy Carter said he committed "lust in his heart". I figure also that they could understand transporting youngsters across state lines. Oops, sorry, that is not like Gunter but Mel Phillips (males) and J.Z. Travis (females). A jury can understand and be sympathetic about a lot of things but no mainstreamers could ever understand being obsessed with wrestling and that is why I have to drop the sheets. Could you use my refund money to get me a subscription to Cosmopolitan so I can find out what women want.

Harry White
St. Louis, MO

COVERAGE OF WWF SCANDALS

First off, I'd like to say that I agree completely with Ron & Klon's views on the WWF scandals that were printed in the 3/23 issue of "AR". Actually, I think a lot of hardcore fans feel the same way but at first were reluctant to say anything in fear of being labeled as the guy who "went against the hardcore belief and against everything the newsletters stand for". While I know it's their job to bring their readers all the news, the sheets got a bit too wrapped up in what has been called "TitanGate". All of these problems with the WWF are terrible, but the coverage of the stories went too far (i.e. the Torch "Titangate" issue). While that was a tremendous piece of work (and somewhat a reference material), it only had one little spot of actual news regarding the "other side of wrestling", or the actual action in the ring. Some thoughts on the scandals brought the ideas that "The end of Titan is near." That's a little strong isn't it? As Klon said in his column in the 3/23 issue, "It seemed the gist of these problems are being blamed on Pat Patterson and Terry Garvin, and now they are gone." As long as McMahon can get rid of the people that are causing the troubles (even as far as taking Hogan, his top man, off of the shows for an indefinite time), he's going to get through this alright. He will be scarred for a long time to come because of this, but the idea of the WWF going out of business is absurd. Now if anything comes out soon about Vince himself, then there's a big threat. But not even a deadly one. Who's next in line? I'm sure his son or someone he can trust would be able to take over just so Vinnie can get out of the picture. We're talking about a multi-million dollar company here. One man's destruction-even if it is Vincent K. McMahon, Jr., is not going to blow it all away. Ron said that we should forget all this and concentrate on "who beat who, what title is changing hands next, who's jumping to what group, etc." And fortunatley we got some news to push all this aside. At least for a while.

Dave Prazak
Lisle, IL

RL- While I agree with most of what you say, I do not believe I made the statement that we should forget all about the scandals. I do think that once an allegation has been reported on in every aspect that we should move on though. Does anyone remember the Donahue show except for us hardcores? Believe me the general public had forgotten about it. THEY JUST DON'T CARE ABOUT WRESTLING!! The only people that are dwelling on the scandals are us and who is going to listen to us enough to do something about it.

Rhetorical Questions

The right to vote is not God given. Man Made law gives the right to vote. If Bill Watts returns will Col. DeBeers be the lead face? Is the WWF any more corrupt than other entertainment businesses? Why must heros have feet of clay? Who takes more steroids, pro wrestlers or track & field athletes? As a 2 time loser, my sympathy to Mike Gunter.

Jim Russell
Orlando, FL

RL- Alright already. Sorry about the right to vote statement last ish but I was on my soapbox and out of control.

Blackballed?

Do you or your writers believe these wrestlers when they make statements like, "If I said anyhting, I would be fired & I would never wrestle again." If someone was fired from WWF wouldn't someone else hire them? Or are they indeed blackballed? Is that why none of the former WWFers in WCW have really come forward?

Wade Ratliff
Blanchard, OK

RL- I believe there really is a fear among wrētlers that this could happen but if they all banned together is the promotion going to get rid of all of them? I highly doubt it. Knowing what I do about Kip Frey, if Vince fired someone for coming out and saying something, Mr. Frey would certainly

look at them if they would be of value. But could you see Vince firing someone like Randy Savage if he spoke out?

WrestleMania Snafu

I was eagerly anticipating Wrestlemania VIII for over 5 months because thanks to Steve Schonberger, he and I copped front row seats. However, when we arrived at the Hoosier Dome about 75 minutes prior to belltime, my hopes for a super time were quickly deflated. We were greeted at our seats by Titan Sports Vice-President of Public Relations, Basil DeVito and a staff member, Bob Collins. The reason was our two glorious seats, set at a diagonal off one of the corners, was situated in back of the scaffolding setup for the camera lights and the forthcoming pyrotechnics.

Was I ever pissed. I put on a temper tantrum that Larry Zbyszko would have been proud to call his own. Mr. DeVito was there to exchange our seats for two new first row seats. The problem was these replacement seats were first row at another diagonal but were back so far that they were an equivalent to a seventh row in the normal ringside sections. It was impossible to take decent photos. I got hotter. I can remember I said to DeVito and Collins: "Wait until Keller and Meltzer hear about this! Or better yet, Wait until I tell Mushnick!" To their credit, they offered me my money back or gave us the choice of selecting which pair of seats we wanted. I left it up to Steve and he chose the replacement seats. This was the second time I got screwed on seats for a mega-show due to camera placements. It happened in 1990 in Washington, DC for Capital Combat and the WCW staff didn't do anything but exchange our tickets for seats at the far end of the building. I appreciated DeVito and Collin's demeanor towards Steve and I, but I still was pissed.

Making matters worse, there was a lot of crowd traffic in front of our new seats, especially from the Arsenio Hall entourage. These inconsiderate folks must have got up out of their seats at least a dozen times to get food and drinks, blocking our views. A real wrestling fan never leaves their seat until intermission. This irked me no end that connections win out over true blue WWFers like myself, which you can well document from my reports.

Then, most importantly, I calmed down, realizing how selfish I was acting. Right in front of us, a mom and dad with little brother wheeled the older brother in a wheelchair. The poor kid was a quadriplegic and needed a respirator. His mom and little brother were very attentive to all his needs in moving him and making sure he was comfortable. I thought to myself, hey, there will be first rows at other shows, and other photo opportunities, like I have had many times before. Here's a kid and his family who would be overjoyed if he could just walk to the bathroom and relieve himself and here I am cussing out Titan for inadvertently screwing me. Yes, I got matters in perspective. Still, I hope the next time Mr. DeVito and Mr. Collins sell seats at pay-per-views, they make sure they don't make the same snafu.

John Lanigan
McKeesport, PA

Global

I would like to say that I think Eddie Gilbert is doing an outstanding job as booker for the GWF. As Steve Prazak wrote in the Observer, there is always something interesting going on and the wrestling shows are entertaining.

As the booker, Eddie has to make some decisions that are not very popular. Being a friend of Scott Hudson, Steven Prazak, and Craig Johnson, I was upset when I heard that Craig lost his job as the host of the show. However I understand why the decision was made. To drive from Atlanta to Dallas every weekend, Eddie has to be very dedicated to his job. Keep up the good work Eddie!!!

Three cheers to Madusa for what she did to Gordon Scozzari. For his comments about Steven Prazak, Bonnie Blackstone and Brute Forcz, maybe Mike Terry will suffer a similar fate someday.

Gary Lynch
Fayetteville, GA

RL- I guess Gilbert wasn't dedicated enough. A little vicious on Mike Terry wouldn't you say? The guy just gives us his insight and opinions on people in the biz. Hope no one says the same fate should fall on you for your comments about Craig Johnson. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion.

WWF

If the S.S.T. are Fatu and Samu in the WWF, I hereby recant listing them in my "Why Bother" group last issue. Honestly, as far as I currently know I thought Fatu and Samoan Savage still comprise the duo. They are decent but not WWF's league of team. It was a stroke of genius to turn Shawn Michaels heel. Even better to have him under Sherri's management. Will he win the I-C belt at Summer Slam? He should get the belt. He works his butt off. Sorry. Poor choice of words in reference to the homo scandal. A big push for Papa

Shongo huh? After he jobs a series for Undertaker? Maybe a few prayers to one of his voodoo Gods will prevent that. I'd have Mark see the lights for Papa the majority of the time to get Shongo over before having him job for Hogan or the Roider.

John Herron
Marble Hill, MO

RL- The SST are Fatu and Samoan Savage. What exactly is the WWF "League of Team"? With a tag roster of Natural Disasters, Bushwhackers, Beverly Brothers etc, you must be talking minor league. I much rather see them in WCW. I wouldn't have Callous see the lights for Shongo. He's too much of a no talent to see the top of WWF. But then again so is Justice, Warrior, etc.

Butch

The only reason that the Ultimate Warrior is off the gas is because he couldn't figure out the new child proof caps. This guy is as dumb as a rock and my hero and role model Vince McMahon, Jr. won't keep him around for long. I know for a fact that in the spirit of wholesome family entertainment, he's about to bring in a new wrestler with a Kung Fu/Cannibal gimmick named Jean-Claude Van Dahmer. Forget the body bags. This guy brings a big stew pot into the ring and....well, just use your imagination.

Butch Bigelow
Dead Dog, KY

IWF

I went to an IWF show at the Central Florida Fairgrounds on Friday and enjoyed it very much. Although the Heartbreakers/Longriders match was a little of a let down, Big Till was stalling like Larry Z from his AWA days. I thought the Bad Boys/Dynamite Express match was the best on the show. Nasty Ronnie and the Possessor made the Chubby M.C. match pretty good. Thunder & Lightning were over with the local crowd and had many friends in the audience. I even enjoyed the Mulligan/Stomper bout, a good brawl thanks to Nasty Ronnie, Possessor, and the Long Riders. Blackjack juiced good and hit Stomper with a garbage can. I hope this group thrives as I'd hate to see them go under.

Anthony Aragona
Orlando, FL

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a get together at the hotel lounge on Saturday at 4:00pm and Sunday a pre-Wrestle War meeting at 2:00. We'll make Mike Gunter in charge of recreational activities Saturday night if there is no wrestling card. AS many people have said in the past about these get togethers: The wrestling is almost secondary to getting together with old friends and new....To those that ordered back issues, they will be mailed out next weekend.....CROW of P.O. Box 1712 Henderson, KY 42420 has the following tapes available: Joel Goodhart Luncheons with Curt Hennig, Jerry Lawler, Jim Cornette, Missy Hyatt, and others for \$16.00. Lawler vs. Moondogs taped off the TV masters for 16.00. Best of Memphis Feb. '92- Complete Kennet, MO concession brawl and lots of other violent Moondog material for \$16.00.....The new Universal Championship Wrestling group opens up May 1st at the St. Stanislaus Hall in Nashua, NH at 7:30 pm. For ticket info call (603)888-4516.....If you haven't yet tried Alex Marvez's Three Count, do yourself a favor and give it a shot. It is in my opinion fast rising to the number 2 sheet in the biz. \$6.00 for 4 weekly issues. Write Alex at P.O. Box 12795, Gainesville, FL 32604.....Jeff Bowdren has one of the most extensive wrestling tape collection in the country. Send \$3.00 for his huge tape list. He also has football tape list available for a SASE. Write Jeff at P.O. Box 16814, Plantation, FL 33318.....Next issue will have a live report from the World Wide Tapings which are being held 5/1 in St. Petersburg. Until then, take care and hope you enjoyed this issue. Thanks for reading gang.

See ya,
Ron